

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 through 14 are now pending in the application. Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein. No new matter has been added. Proper support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least in paragraphs [0007], [0017], [0020], and [0044] as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicant thanks the Examiner for withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1 through 4, 9, 11, and 13 as being anticipated by Rokowski et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,534,310) in view of the prior amendments.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 through 5 and 7 through 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rokowski et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,534,310). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes that independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to further recite the limitation of a *nonionic* surfactant, such that the addition of a base serves to neutralize the acidic monomers that are present in the monomer emulsion. The Rokowski patent merely teaches the use of ammonia to neutralize an anionic surfactant before using it. There is no motivation to add a base such as

ammonia if one is already using a nonionic surfactant such as that contemplated in the present disclosure and amended Claim 1.

It is well known to those skilled in the art that a neutralized surfactant (with counter ions) functions best for stabilizing emulsion polymer particles. Thus, Rokowski et al. disclose the use of ammonia in order to neutralize the acidic surfactant Wayfos M-60 to a pH of about 7 (see, e.g. Col. 13, lines 1-32). In the present invention, neutralized surfactants are used at the outset, thereby eliminating any motivation for Rokowski's neutralization step with a base such as ammonia. According to the present invention, the base is added not to neutralize the surfactant, but rather to neutralize any monomer emulsion that contains acidic monomers. By neutralizing the acidic monomer-containing emulsion, the present invention has the ability to form a coating having more advantageous coating properties, such as latex viscosity.

Since the Rokowski patent fails to teach, disclose or suggest all of the aspects of the amended claims, Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over the cited Rokowski patent and reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt

and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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